GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3699
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2008
LOSSES INCURRED IN THE FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
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Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided any facilities of refrigeration in the rural areas for the benefit of food processing industries during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the amount of losses incurred in the food processing sector during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (I/C) (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI)

(a) & (b): Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) had been providing financial assistance in the form of grant- in- aid upto 25% of the cost of plant & machinery and technical civil works in general areas and 33.33% in difficult areas with a common ceiling of Rs. 75 lakhs under the Cold Chain component of 10th Plan Scheme. The assistance under the scheme was limited to cold storages for non- horticulture produces, special type of cold storages with controlled/modified atmosphere technology, cold storages as integral part of processing units or as a common facility in food parks. MFPI had assisted 16 cold storage projects during last three years (from 2005-06 to 2007-08) involving financial assistance of Rs. 5.70 crore.

(c) & (d) : According to the Vision 2015 document, wastage of Agricultural food items (including fruits) is estimated to be about Rs. 58,000 crore annually, occurring at various stages of handling after harvesting due to lack of adequate post-harvest infrastructure, lack of cold chain facilities, transportation, proper storage facilities etc.

Government has formulated and implemented several Plan Schemes to provide financial assistance for the establishment and modernization of food processing units, creation of infrastructure, support for R&D, human resource development besides other promotional measures aimed at reducing wastages, enhancing value addition and increasing shelf life.

MFPI has developed a scheme on Mega Food Parks for 11th Plan which aims to provide a mechanism to bring together farmers, processors and retailers and link agricultural production to the market so as to ensure maximization of value addition, minimization of wastages and improving farmers' income. Mega Food Park envisages a well-defined agri/horticultural-processing zone containing state of the art processing facilities with support infrastructure and well established supply chain. The primary objective of the scheme is to facilitate establishment of an integrated value chain, with processing at the core and supported by requisite forward and backward linkages. Further, a comprehensive Cold Chain Infrastructure Scheme has also been developed for 11th Plan for creating integrated cold chain infrastructure at different levels- farm level primary processing centre-cum-cold chain, collection/aggregation centres and Strategic Distribution Centres. These initiatives are aimed at filling the gaps in the supply chain, strengthening of cold chain infrastructure leading to overall development of food processing industries and reduction in wastages.